

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 - 9 and add the following new Claims 10 - 18, which begin on the following page:

10. In combination:

See 7
a hanger rod for supporting one or more components of a building from building structure;

a clamp having a straight first clamp segment and a straight second clamp spaced from said first clamp segment and parallel thereto, each of said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment being double-ended and threaded over at least a portion of the length thereof, said clamp including a third clamp segment integral with and extending between ends of said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment;

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a plate connected to said clamp and defining spaced openings, ends of said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment remote from said third clamp segment projecting through said spaced openings, said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment disposed on opposed sides of said hanger rod and said third clamp segment and said plate disposed on other opposed sides of said hanger rod, said connected plate and clamp surrounding said hanger rod;

nuts threadedly engaged with the ends of said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment projecting through said spaced openings urging said plate toward said third clamp segment; and

an elongated stiffener member surrounded by said connected plate and clamp and disposed between said plate and

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said third clamp segment, said hanger rod extending parallel to said elongated stiffener member and engaged by said elongated stiffener member, and said elongated stiffener member cooperable with said clamp to maintain the hanger rod in a predetermined position relative to said elongated stiffener member and said clamp wherein said hanger rod is in engagement with said elongated stiffener member and with said clamp, at least a portion of said third clamp segment being straight and non-orthogonally disposed relative to said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment and cooperable with said elongated stiffener member to continuously exert lateral forces on said hanger rod continuously urging said hanger rod to said predetermined position due to clamping engagement of said hanger rod between said elongated stiffener member and the third clamp segment, and said plate being in contact with said elongated stiffener member at a location on said elongated stiffener member spaced from said hanger rod and urging said elongated stiffener member toward said hanger rod and said third clamp segment

11. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said third clamp segment includes a first straight portion and a second straight portion interconnected with said first straight portion, said first straight portion extending from and forming an obtuse angle with said first clamp segment, said second straight portion extending from and forming an obtuse angle with

said second clamp segment and said first straight portion and said second straight portion defining an obtuse angle therebetween, said first straight portion and said second straight portion exerting generally opposed lateral forces on the hanger rod continuously urging the hanger rod to a location of interconnection between the first straight portion and said second straight portion.

12. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said third clamp segment is substantially straight along the entire length thereof and forms an obtuse angle with said first clamp segment and an acute angle with said second clamp segment.

13. The combination according to Claim 11 wherein said first straight portion and said second straight portion connect at a location substantially midway between said first clamp segment and said second clamp segment.

14. The combination according to Claim 11 wherein said first straight portion and said second straight portion connect at a location closer to said first clamp segment than to the second clamp segment.

15. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said elongated stiffener member comprises a channel bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

16. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said elongated stiffener member has a circular-shaped outer peripheral

bearing surface bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

17. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said elongated stiffener member has a rectangular-shaped outer peripheral bearing surface bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

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18. The combination according to Claim 10 wherein said predetermined position is located at an intersection between said third clamp segment and the first clamp segment.